

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 14, and 15, and have not canceled or added any claims. Accordingly, claims 1-16 will still be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed June 30, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 as either anticipated by or unpatentable over JP 10-137204 to Sakaguchi et al. ("Sakaguchi").

Applicants' representative wishes to thank Examiner Mathew for the courtesies extended during the telephone interviews conducted November 14, 2008 and December 19, 2008. In those interviews, the Examiner agreed that the present invention is distinguishable over Sakaguchi and agreed on claim amendments clarifying features of independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 15. The substance of those interviews is reflected in the following remarks.

As agreed in the interviews, the present invention is distinguishable over the conventional sphygmomanometer of Sakaguchi. In particular, the present invention receives feedback in the form of a quantification target and controls a pressure based on the quantification target, in order to change a compression force applied to a predetermined range of muscles. In contrast, Sakaguchi – like typical blood pressure devices – merely increases air pressure in a cuff to a level higher than a predicted maximal blood pressure, and then gradually reduces air pressure in the cuff and measures pulse waves to determine a systolic blood pressure and a diastolic blood

pressure. (See, e.g., paragraph [0013] of the Computer Generated Translation of Sakaguchi, and for further background, the general article *Blood Pressure Monitoring: How To Measure Blood Pressure*, both of which are submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith.) Importantly, there is no feedback in Sakaguchi, i.e., the measured pulse waves are not fed back nor used to control a compression force applied by the cuff.

To more positively recite the features distinguishable over Sakaguchi, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 14, and 15 as agreed upon with the Examiner. Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to recite “said control means controlling said pressure setting means based on said quantification target.” Applicants have amended claims 7 and 15 to recite “control data generating means for generating control data and controlling said pressure setting segment to change said compression force based on the quantification target data that have been received.” As agreed in the interviews, the original independent method claims 13 and 16 recite specific functions distinguishable over Sakaguchi (e.g., relating to feedback) and have not been amended. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7, and 13-16 are patentable over the prior art. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-6 and 8-12 are also patentable due to their dependence on an allowable base claim and for the additional features recited therein.

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In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in allowable condition. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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MB/SPA/ggb

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